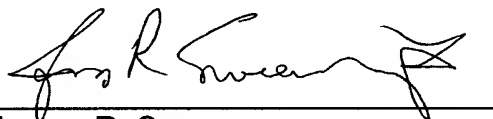


**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1-15, 18, 20, 23, and 25 are now cancelled without prejudice of the right to present the subject matter thereof in this or another application. Claims 16-17, 19, 21-22, 24, 26-28, and 29-31 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss any unresolved matters.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James R. Sweeney", is written over a horizontal line.

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